НАШ ДОМ
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NASH DOM-Info
Weekly information newsletter

17.09.-30.09.2012

Justice has a Name, and the Name is the NASH DOM (Our House) Civil Campaign.

Our activists are people who do care about their country, who are working to develop true self-governance in Belarus, to put an end to the junta ruling. The NASH DOM-INFO PDF edition mission is to provide food and multi-angle information about the NASH DOM (Our House) Civil Campaign, about our success cases and about those who interfere with our efforts to establish self-governance. We appreciate your questions and comments.

Please send them to e-mail info@nash-dom.info.



Руководительница ГК «Наш Дом» **Ольга Карач**

Current Headlines

- Nikolai Petrushenko's case sent to Vitebsk
- Abandoned buildings in Minsk
- Open letter to the chief of administration in Gomel
- Orsha citizens learnt about crimes in their city

Registration
nash-dom.info

NASH DOM (Our House) Civil Campaign in Facebook



Belarusian human rights movement lost its activist

<u>On September 2012, died Kristina Shatikova, a human rights defender from the civil campaign “Our House”. Kristina had long suffered from a serious illness.</u>

We have lost a real man. Kristina was in the forefront of human rights movement. She was not afraid of police or the KGB or any other law enforcement or ideological agencies. She survived all attempts of aggression of the regime against her, namely, the numerous detentions, the fact that she had forcefully been placed in a psychiatric hospital where she had been subject to a humiliating unjustified medical treatment which was, in fact, threatening for her health and life.

Psychiatrists who have become faithful servants of the authorities treated her with psychotropic drugs which paralyze the will. School had put a lot of pressure on her children; authorities have several times attempted to take them away from mother. The hated Degree No.18 was, in fact, taken because of Kristina’s activities.

It might be a mere coincidence or result of psychiatrists’ “treatment”, but after the psychiatric hospital, Kristina developed an incurable disease. Belarusian doctors refused to treat her because they could not find a cure. Kristina died on the day of a religious holiday, on the day of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We believe it is a sign that Kristina lived a decent and rightful life. Her premature death is a great loss to “Our House” and to human rights movement as well.

Kristina has two underage children.

Valery Shchukin

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For transparency of government

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Abandoned buildings in Minsk









Activists of the campaign "Deputies to answer!" continue to inspect abandoned buildings in the capital of Belarus. Some of them used to be houses, clubs, cinemas, kindergartens, the factory premises, and even historical buildings.

It should be noted that these buildings have long been abandoned. For unknown reasons, they are neither reconstructed nor demolished.

See a photo report at our website:
nash-dom.info

Olga Brunevich

Open letter from "Our House" to the Chief of Novabelitski district administration of Gomel

In June, "Our House" activists were collecting signatures in Novabelitski district to support a petition to clean the lake and the adjacent canals as well as take the rubbish away in Prudy recreation area. Novabelitski district administration considered the petition and allocated funds to perform cleaning works. Regional OSVOD organisation was entitled to clean the bottom of the lake and the its banks.

Korenevskaya Experimental Forestry Base of Forest Institute of the National Academy of Science of Belarus was asked to clean the drainage ditches in the adjacent areas by August, 15, 2012.

However, the results of cleaning works have not been seen due to a number if reasons.

A rescuer Vitaly took out of the lake a lot of rubbish which he put in small piles near the lake. According to him, he was only responsible for taking the rubbish out. Someone else had to take it away. Cleaning works were performed on August 17, before celebration of the Day of the City. The rubbish was also taken away, but only on that side of the lake that people walk along. However, there are piles of rubbish on the other side, near the forest. Rescuers had worked in vain.

So, we wanted to do something better, but it worked in a usual way. Those people who had signed the petition wanted to see their lake cleaned. However, they now see that nothing has changed and they think that officials are again to be blamed for it.

On September 6, 2012 the newspaper "Sovetski district" published an article titled "Where do chiefs of Gomel like to relax?"Aleksei Nikolaevich says that his favorite place to relax in the city is recreation area Prudy in Novabelitski district. He comes there every weekend. But we seem to be talking about different recreational areas Prudy, Aleksei Nikolaevich, or we have different views on the piles of rubbish.

First deputy chief of Novabelitski district administration Alexander Shmagli answered us that our collective appeal was under consideration and control of the administration of Novabelitski district. We would like to know the results of such control. Alexander , are you and your deputy satisfied with the results of work? Do you have any comments?

Belarus has always been proud of its clean streets, parks, lakes and forests. It is a shame that underneath an outer beauty there is still rubbish.

Civil Campaign "Gomel-Our House"

Olga karach: the elections initiated a very good process



Leader of the civil campaign "Our House" Olga Karach took part in the discussion of outcomes of the recent parliamentary elections at the program "Prague accent" at Radio Liberty.

Olga Karach stressed several negative aspects of the elections:

"When it comes to the short-term results, I can come up with two conclusions. I would not argue over who was right and who was wrong, because we have certain results and need to work with them. I think that short-term results are, unfortunately, not good and optimistic. First, the victory of the democratic forces is postponed for a long period of time. It was clear that it was impossible to win at these elections. Secondly, I could point out that, unfortunately, despite the implementation of various strategies, the people have not got involved in this campaign, they have been left behind. There have been no political mobilization of the Belarusian people" .

Meanwhile, leader of the civil campaign "Our House" mentioned positive changes which would significantly landscape political arena in Belarus in the future.

"As for the long-term goals, I am more optimistic. It's a first time that we could observe a battle between political scenarios. Thus, I can observe development of social and political institutions in Belarus, which is a good process. In the long term perspective, the elections were very successful because of these different strategies. Each organization could select, try and implement its own strategy, which demonstrates that we are moving away from a "dissident" approach, and start to think politically, which is really necessary when it come to the public sphere. "

Olga Karach
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OSCE supports the campaign "Deputy to answer!"





The election is over, the next one is election to local Councils.

"This election was not competitive from the start," **Matteo Mecacci**, OSCE special coordinator, said in his statement at last week's conference in Minsk. OSCE will prepare a final report within two months. Human rights activist **Nikolai Petrushenko** raised an important issue at the discussion.

"Election is an important but not the only constituent of a democratic transformation in Belarus." he remarked. "In the course of preparation for the upcoming election to local councils and taking into account experience of the campaign "Deputies to answer" , is THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ready to monitor how elected deputies perform their duties and report voters of the work done?"

The chef of short-term OSCE observer mission Matteo Mecacci replied that they had been considering this.

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It fell down (see the photo)



A public toilet next to a bus stop at the intersection of Panchenko and Sukharevskaya streets in Sukharevo -6 residential district is in horizontal position, which makes it difficult to use it.

Drivers as well as citizens have been concerned with this problem for several years. They are very much annoyed with unpleasant smell.

A driver named Aleksei commented on the situation: There is a bus depot here, however, we can't use this toilet and have to wait until we get to another end of the route. Not far from this stop, right along the city bypass used to be a wood and drivers used to go there if they needed to use a toilet. Now that it has been cut, it's not possible anymore to go there.

Activists of the civil campaign "Our House" have sent photo evidence to the local authorities.

A criminal case against Nikolai Petrushenko was sent to Vitebsk court

Our source in Orsha city Investigative Committee informed us that the criminal case against **Nikolai Petrushenko** for insulting an official from Orsha City Executive Committee has been sent to a higher court for consideration. It was sent to the Vitebsk regional department of the Investigative Committee in order to carry out "an unbiased and professional investigation".

Nikolai Petrushenko did not confirm this news. He pointed out that even if he had been informed about this, he wouldn't say anything because he had signed a non-disclosure agreement.

It should be reminded that Nikolai Petrushenko was summoned to Orsha city Investigative Committee after he had been registered as a candidate for the House of Representatives at Orsha city electoral district No. 26. Nikolai is a member of The Belarusian United Left Party "A Just World" and a human rights activist of the Civil Campaign "Our House".

He was given a copy of court decision to initiate a criminal case against him for the offence under Article 369 of the Criminal Code (insulting a government official). The authorities took such tough actions against Petrushenko because of his article called "Pedophile won awards for best children's playgrounds". In his article, Petrushenko suggested that the offender could have influential supporters among senior officials.

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Citizens of Orsha are concerned about rampant pedophilia in the city



Citizens of Orsha received the newspaper "Vitebsky Courier" with an article on rampant pedophilia in the city. Our reporter took a photo of residents of Mogilevskaya street. A great concern could be seen on their faces while they were reading the article. It says that Association of Tenants in Mogilevskaya street headed by **Yuri Dudkin** gave roof to a porno studio.

It should be reminded that materials of the criminal case are divided into two parts. Currently, Orsha judge Rybakova is investigating 33 episodes of violence against young children. The trial against pedophiles is to start in early October. The case of theft of BYR 100 million by malpractice is yet to be tired.